

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A portable device comprising:
 - 5 a) a body;
 - b) memory within the body containing software and financial account information;
 - c) an interface associated with the memory and adapted to facilitate interaction with the host computing device during a computing session;
 - 10 d) the software adapted to execute on the host computing device to instruct the host computing device to:
 - i) recognize financial account fields in a web page during a browsing session; and
 - 15 ii) fill in the financial account fields in the web page with the financial account information from the portable device to facilitate a web-based transaction.
2. The portable device of claim 1 wherein the financial account information relates to a plurality of financial accounts, the software further adapted to instruct the host computing device to:
 - 25 a) query a user to select one of the plurality of financial accounts;
 - b) receive selection indicia from the user; and
 - c) fill in the financial account fields in the web page with certain of the financial account information corresponding to the selected one of
 - 30 the plurality of financial accounts.
3. The portable device of claim 1 wherein the software is further adapted to provide an authentication

routine to execute on the host computing device, the authentication routine instructing the host computing device to receive authentication indicia from a user via an interface on the host computing device and determine if the authentication indicia received from the user matches authentication indicia stored on the portable device.

4. The portable device of claim 1 wherein the portable device stores login information for a web site associated with the web-based transaction and the software is further adapted to instruct the host computing device to determine if login information is necessary for the web site and provide the login information upon entering the web site.

5. The portable device of claim 1 wherein a bookmark for the web site is stored on the portable device and the software is further adapted to instruct the host computing device to make the bookmark accessible by a browser running on the host computing device such that a user may use the bookmark to efficiently access the web site via the browser.

6. The portable device of claim 1 wherein the portable device stores shipping information for an item selected for purchase during the web-based transaction and the software is further adapted to instruct the host computing device to access the shipping information and provide the shipping information to the web site to facilitate delivery of the item selected for purchase.

7. The portable device of claim 1 wherein the shipping information includes a plurality of shipping addresses, the software further adapted to instruct the host computing device to:
- 5 a) query a user to select one of the plurality of shipping addresses;
- b) receive selection indicia from the user; and
- c) fill in the shipping address fields with certain of the shipping information corresponding to the
- 10 selected one of the plurality of shipping addresses.
8. The portable device of claim 1 wherein the software is further adapted to automatically execute on the
- 15 host computing device in association with the computing session, and in association with termination of the computing session, instruct the host computing device to remove records pertaining to the computing session from the host computing
- 20 device to enhance privacy associated with the computing session.
9. The portable device of claim 1 wherein the software is adapted to emulate a file system resident on the
- 25 host computing device when interacting with the host computing device.
10. The portable device of claim 1 wherein the software is adapted to appear as a file system to the host
- 30 computing device.
11. The portable device of claim 1 wherein the interface is adapted to directly interface a port in the host computing device.

12. The portable device of claim 1 wherein the interface is adapted to provide a wireless interface with the host computing device.

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13. A computer readable medium including software to reside on a portable device capable of interacting with a plurality of host computing devices, the software comprising instructions for the host computing device to:

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- a) execute on the host computing device during a computing session;
- a) recognize financial account fields in a web page during a browsing session; and
- b) fill in the financial account fields in the web page with financial account information stored on the portable device to facilitate a web-based transaction.

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14. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the financial account information relates to a plurality of financial accounts, the software further adapted to instruct the host computing device to:

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- a) query a user to select one of the plurality of financial accounts;
- b) receive selection indicia from the user; and
- c) fill in the financial account fields in the web page with certain of the financial account information corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of financial accounts.

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15. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the software is further adapted to provide an authentication routine to execute on the host

computing device, the authentication routine instructing the host computing device to receive authentication indicia from a user via an interface on the host computing device and determine if the authentication indicia received from the user matches authentication indicia stored on the portable device.

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16. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the portable device stores login information for a web site associated with the web-based transaction and the software is further adapted to instruct the host computing device to determine if login information is necessary for the web site and provide the login information upon entering the web site.

17. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein a bookmark for the web site is stored on the portable device and the software is further adapted to instruct the host computing device to make the bookmark accessible by a browser running on the host computing device such that the user may use the bookmark to efficiently access the web site via the browser.

18. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the portable device stores shipping information for an item selected for purchase during the web-based transaction and the software is further adapted to instruct the host computing device to access the shipping information and provide the shipping information to the web site to facilitate delivery of the item selected for purchase.

19. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the shipping information includes a plurality of shipping addresses, the software further adapted to instruct the host computing device to:

- 5 a) query a user to select one of the plurality of shipping addresses;
- b) receive selection indicia from the user; and
- c) fill in the shipping address fields with certain of the shipping information corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of shipping addresses.
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20. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the software is further adapted to automatically execute on the host computing device in association with the computing session, and in association with termination of the computing session, instruct the host computing device to remove records pertaining to the computing session from the host computing device to enhance privacy associated with the computing session.

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21. A method for facilitating a web-based transaction using a portable device capable of interacting with a plurality of host computing devices, the method comprising:

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- a) executing software resident on the portable device on a host computing device in association with a computing session;
- 30 b) recognizing financial account fields in a web page during a browsing session; and
- c) filling in the financial account fields in the web page with financial account information

stored on the portable device to facilitate a web-based transaction.

- 5 22. The method of claim 21 wherein the financial account information relates to a plurality of financial accounts, the method further comprising:
- a) querying the user to select one of the plurality of financial accounts;
 - b) receiving selection indicia from the user; and
 - 10 c) filling in the financial account fields in the web page with certain of the financial account information corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of financial accounts.
- 15 23. The method of claim 21 further receiving authentication indicia from a user via an interface on the host computing device and determining if the authentication indicia received from the user matches authentication indicia stored on the
- 20 portable device.
24. The method of claim 21 wherein the portable device stores login information for a web site associated with the web-based transaction and further
- 25 comprising determining if login information is necessary for the web site and providing the login information upon entering the web site.
- 30 25. The method of claim 21 wherein a bookmark for the web site is stored on the portable device and further comprising making the bookmark accessible by a browser running on the host computing device such that a user may use the bookmark to efficiently access the web site via the browser.

26. The method of claim 21 wherein the portable device stores shipping information for an item selected for purchase during the web-based transaction and further comprising accessing the shipping information and providing the shipping information to the web site to facilitate delivery of the item selected for purchase.
27. The method of claim 21 wherein the shipping information includes a plurality of shipping addresses and further comprising:
- a) querying a user to select one of the plurality of shipping addresses;
 - b) receiving selection indicia from the user; and
 - c) filling in the shipping address fields with certain of the shipping information corresponding to the selected one of the plurality of shipping addresses.
28. The method of claim 21 further comprising removing records pertaining to the computing session from the host computing device to enhance privacy associated with the computing session in association with termination of the computing session.